

we care about them, and that they are not forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, as the world leader, the United States has the wonderful opportunity, and I argue obligation, to help improve conditions worldwide. We must not waste our chance to help the peaceful people of East Timor live free from daily fear and oppression.

"ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL"

HON. BILL ORTON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. ORTON. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct the Voice of Democracy broadcast script-writing contest. It is a truly worthwhile program that not only gives our youth academic support through scholarship awards, but also gives them the opportunity to become more acquainted with local veterans. The contest theme this year was "Answering America's Call."

Today, I am proud to recognize a bright, young member of my district, Michael Fox, for his patriotic writing ability. Michael and 53 others were chosen from a group of more than 100,000 participants to receive scholarships that will provide crucial assistance in meeting the costs of higher education. I am pleased to pay tribute to Michael Fox by presenting his award-winning script to the U.S. Congress.

The following is a copy of Michael Fox's winning script:

ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL

(By Michael Fox)

For every generation of this great nation, since before it was christened America, there has been at least one great call. A resounding call for decisive, cooperative, forceful action. Each great call centers around a crisis which if left unresolved would compromise or even destroy the wonderful land that is the United States of America. A great call is heard by every citizen in every corner of the land, and each is answered by the champions of America. It is thanks to these brave heroes, the champions of America that this nation exists today as the greatest on earth.

The standard for the great American hero was set in the early days by the father of our country, George Washington and the army that followed him in rebellion against the oppressive tyranny of England. This army was raised out of a haphazard group of farmers who made up for what they lacked in classical military know-how with courage, smarts, rugged individualism and honor. The sheer, rabid will to fight, and the selfless willingness to give up their lives so that their families could be free won the day for that heroic legion.

After that conflict, in which America won the right to rule itself, another kind of hero emerged. This hero had the same moral qualities as the men of Washington's army. Many in fact were veterans. But they responded to a different call. Theirs was the burden of leadership, of establishing order, and striking a balance between government rule and personal freedom. The qualities of the American hero gave these men the ability to build a nation such as none before it. They had the insight to realize that people, if given the chance, could rule themselves better than any king. They had the courage to try out new ideas on a national scale. And they had the honor to keep the new govern-

ment free of the kind of power-hungry corruption that hindered France on its path to freedom.

The success of these early American champions in hearing and answering the call of America set a precedent, and defined our national character. It is the men and women in possession of this virtuous national character, that have carried us through every hardship. It is the ability of this American champion to answer the call with brave deeds and wise words that has brought the nation intact through every war, every depression, and every catastrophe.

But the great calls of America are by no means the only ones. The heroic deeds recorded in history books are in and of themselves not sufficient to maintain America. The true American champion need not fight in a revolution or rescue his nation from an economic disaster. For the spirit of the American champion is powerful when applied to every aspect of life. The characteristics of George Washington can be observed every day in the people who beat back the criminal element that grows in our cities like a cancer, in the people who work to build and feed not only America but also the less fortunate countries of the world, and in the people who teach the children so that the next generation of Americans may be as wise, brave, and honorable as the first. These people who answer the subtle calls of America are the glue that holds the nation together.

If our nation is to continue to grow and progress, each of us must be committed to the ideals of the American champion. Each of us must be ready for America's next great call. But in the absence of a great call, each of us must be sensitive to the little calls. And when the call comes, we'll fight. We'll never run away. Because ever since America began, the land of the free has also been the home of the brave.

CHRISTINA CABRERA, VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST WINNER

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call the attention of the House to the work of Christina Cabrera of Seaford, DE. Christina is Delaware's State winner of the Veterans of Foreign War's Voice of Democracy scriptwriting contest and has also been named a national winner and recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship award from the VFW. I congratulate Christina, her family, and VFW Post 4961 in Seaford, DE for sponsoring this excellent program.

As my colleagues know, the VFW has sponsored the Voice of Democracy Competition for 49 years to promote patriotic and civic responsibility among our young people and to help them attend college through the scholarship awards. The competition requires students to write and record a 3 to 5 minute essay on a patriotic theme. This year, over 116,000 students participated in the contest on the theme: "Answering America's Call." I am very proud to share with the House, Christina's excellent essay on the need for young people to answer the call and become actively involved in making our country a better place to live.

Again, congratulations to Christina, the Cabrera family, and the members of VFW Post 4961 for their fine work.

ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL

(By Christina Cabrera)

Ring. Ring. Hello. Hello, this is America calling. Oh, hello.

I am calling to tell you that America as we know it is slowly deteriorating. The percentage of teenage pregnancy, alcohol abuse, and violence is every increasing. As for adults, the percentage of registered voters that actually vote is declining, unemployment is a widespread concern, and everyone seems to be pointing a finger of accusation at everyone else in a childish blame game.

I know all of this, but why are you calling me? I am calling you because, as a member of today's youth, you are a part of tomorrow's leaders. You are the only chance America has.

This phone conversation, though somewhat silly, is more serious than it appears. Unfortunately, many adolescents and young adults are not answering the call for action to make this country an even better place than it is. Though Americans are already free, the need to be productive and successful is important as well. Americans owe it to themselves as a nation, and to the memory of those who gave their lives for freedom and made the United States the country it is today.

There are several ways one can answer the call. One way is to volunteer. Community service is always appreciated by those who are being helped. Working at a soup kitchen, visiting the sick or shut-in, or babysitting for free the kids down the road whose mother is struggling to make ends meet are all simple ways to make one's community better. Another way to answer America's call is to devote oneself to a political or humanitarian cause. Help make public service announcements concerning violence or drug and alcohol abuse. Join the staff of a Planned Parenthood Clinic or a Suicide Hotline. An increasing number of persons using these facilities need someone to talk to. Many options are available, and the experience is worth the effort. A final way to answer the call is to make a big step and join the military. This provides an opportunity for one to defend one's country, an important job in today's nuclear-weapon-stocked world. It does not matter what one does, as long as one takes the initiative to help out instead of waiting for others to do so.

The most important part of answering America's call is to cease playing the blame game. By making oneself a victim and shifting the blame on everyone else, one only adds to the problems plaguing our country. Instead of complaining that society treats women unfairly, join a group that advocates change. Instead of complaining that racial minorities are unequally treated, write to Congress and let them know. If change is to be brought about, it will only occur if everyone helps to make it happen.

By answering the call, not only will Americans be helping the United States become a stronger nation, but will also be setting an example for others to start contributing their talents